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APRIL 15, 1996 CVP WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION FOR 1996: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interior believes that this water allocation plan reflects a good balance of the many goals of the Central Valley Project. Interior has worked closely over the past few months with the State of California, environmental, agricultural and urban water users to develop a water allocation plan that meets Bay-Delta water quality standards and the flow and habitat objectives under the CVPIA's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP), while at the same time minimizing potential water supply impacts. This cooperative effort has identified ways of meeting the fish and wildlife objectives in the rivers and the Delta, without requiring use of the full 800,000 AF available under the CVPIA. Consistent with the Draft Guidelines for use of the 800,000 AF ("White Paper"), the objectives in the rivers and the Delta are being met through: (1) the modification of CVP operations; (2) management of the 800,000 AF; and (3) acquisition of water from willing sellers.

Of particular concern to the water user community has been the proposal to limit springtime pumping for the benefit of Delta aquatic resources. Consistent with the principles of the Bay Delta Accord and the Draft Guidelines for use of the 800,000 AF ("White Paper"), Interior has developed a plan to make up the water supply impacts caused by these springtime pumping restrictions by using the flexibility of the State Water Project to pump higher levels during October. In the event that water supply impacts are not made up through this fall pumping, water storage in San Luis Reservoir would be reduced for the 1997 water year.

In order to assure that the additional pumping in the fall and early winter does not adversely affect biological resources in the aquatic environment, as well as to assure compliance with Reclamation's water rights permit, Interior has established a workgroup to develop protective conditions

on the makeup pumping. The workgroup, which is focused primarily on the spring run chinook salmon, will assess and develop criteria to assure no adverse environmental impacts from the makeup operation, based on an enhanced real-time monitoring program to determine fishery conditions during the fall and early winter. The information developed in this monitoring program will be used by Interior, in cooperation with the CALFED Ops Group, to determine the appropriate restrictions on pumping to assure no adverse impacts to the aquatic resources resulting from the makeup operation.

Interior made a conscientious effort to involve the stakeholders in the process for developing water allocations and AFRP objectives, but acknowledges that the process did not meet the needs nor has been endorsed by all of the interested stakeholders. We believe that some of the problems this year were a result of the inherent "bugs" that arise in getting any program off the ground, and that this was exacerbated by the short time frame to establish the flow objectives and resulting allocations. Interior intends that this year's allocations and AFRP objectives will not establish a precedent for future years.

Interior also acknowledges that there has been substantial disagreement within the stakeholder community about the propriety of using CVPIA section 3406(b)(2) water for additional Delta outflow benefits above the level required in the Bay Delta Accord. It is Interior's belief that such use of the (b)(2) water would be appropriate, and would be consistent with both the CVPIA and the Accord. Interior reaffirms its commitment to work with the stakeholders to assure that development of subsequent year allocations and AFRP objectives, including any objectives that require use of the (b)(2) water are developed in an open process that assures stakeholder involvement and maximizes opportunities for consensus, and are reasonable as required under the Act. To that end, Interior endorses the AFRP Workgroup's recommendations that the federal agencies "should develop a consultative process in which stakeholders can discuss and participate in the resolution of technical and policy issues that arise during implementation [of the CVPIA]." We look forward to working with the many interest groups in the immediate future to establish this collaborative process.